

## Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV, MAY 15

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

1. WEDNESDAY MORNING

(A) KALB (CBS-TV) -- IT WAS HARDLY THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE KISSINGER EXPECTED - HUNDREDS OF ISRAELIS DEMONSTRATING AGAINST ANY CONCESSIONS TO SYRIA. THE PLACARDS AND THE CHANTS TAKING ON A DISTINCTLY PERSONAL NOTE. THESE ISRAELIS URGING THE SECRETARY TO REMEMBER THAT SOME PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE REFERRED TO HIM AS 'JEW BOY' AND THAT HE CANNOT WITH ANY CONSCIENCE SELL OUT OR UNDERMINE AN ISRAELI INTEREST IN THIS NEGOTIATION. TODAY LIKE LAST NIGHT KISSINGER WENT INTO URGENT CONFERENCE WITH TOP ISRAELI LEADERS BUT TODAY UNLIKE LAST NIGHT THEY HAVE BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH THE TERRORISTS HOLDING ISRAELI SCHOOL CHILDREN HOSTAGE, AN ACT OF POLITICAL DESPERATION THAT INHIBITS THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT FROM SHOWING ANY FURTHER FLEXIBILITY IN THE NEGOTIATION WITH SYRIA.

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IN ANY CASE, THE ISRAELIS FEEL THEY HAVE GONE ABOUT AS FAR

AS THEY CAN GO. ACCORDING TO ONE WELL-INFORMED SOURCE, KISSINGER LEARNED DURING HIS TALK WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD OF SYRIA YESTERDAY THAT THE SYRIANS ARE NOW DEMANDING FULL CONTROL OF THE THREE STRATEGIC HILLS FLANKING KUNEITRA, THE FORMER DISTRICT CAPITAL ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. THAT WOULD GIVE THE SYRIANS A GREAT MILITARY ADVANTAGE AND THE ISRAELIS BALKED AT THAT. THEY THINK THAT PROVES THE SYRIANS ARE NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN DISENGAGEMENT AS SUCH, SO MUCH AS IMPROVING THEIR MILITARY POSITION USING DISENGAGEMENT ONLY AS A PRETEXT. KISSINGER IS RETURNING TO DAMASCUS TODAY. UNLESS PRESIDENT ASSAD CHANGES HIS TUNE, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE SECRETARY WILL BE UNABLE TO CRACK THE DEADLOCK AND HE WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON IN A FEW DAYS, THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT STILL OUT OF HIS REACH.

(SECOND PARAGRAPH WAS ALSO USED IN KALB RADIO REPORT.)

(B) VALERIANI (NBC-TV "TODAY SHOW") -- THE US VIEW IS THAT JUST AS THIS SYRIAN SHELLING SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH THE DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATION, NEITHER SHOULD THE TERRORISTS ACTION OF ARAB EXTREMISTS WHO ARE TRYING TO WRECK THE PEACE TALKS. IN A STATEMENT EXPRESSING SHOCK AND OUTRAGE, KISSINGER CALLED ON ALL RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENTS TO CONDEMN SUCH INHUMANE ACTS AND SEVERELY PUNISH THE TERRORISTS WHO CARRIED THEM OUT. BUT AN AMERICAN SPOKESMAN SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IMPACT THE TERRORISM WOULD HAVE ON THE ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATION NOR IF KISSINGER WOULD RAISE THE SUBJECT WHEN HE MET WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD LATER TODAY. AFTER YESTERDAY'S LONG MEETING WITH ASSAD, KISSINGER MADE NO MENTION OF PROGRESS IN THE DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

-- SECRETARY KISSINGER: "THE PRESIDENT AND I HAVE FURTHER  
-- VERY EXTENSIVE TALKS IN A MOST CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE. THE  
-- CONTINUED REVIEW OF POSSIBLE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS,  
-- FURTHER REFINING THE VARIOUS IDEAS WE HAD BEFORE US."

BACK IN JERUSALEM LAST NIGHT DEMONSTRATORS FROM THE GOLAN HEIGHTS DENOUNCED KISSINGER AS A "JEW BOY" AND PROTESTED AGAINST ANY ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. KISSINGER'S NEGOTIATING  
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PLANS FOR TODAY HAVE BEEN COMPLICATED BY THE TERRORIST ATTACK BUT HE STILL HOPES TO FLY TO DAMASCUS TO MAKE ANOTHER TRY AT GETTING AN AGREEMENT THIS WEEK.

(C) ABC RADIO BROADCAST PORTION MCCLOSKEY READING STATEMENT CONDEMNING MA'ALOT VIOLENCE.

2. TUESDAY EVENING

(A) KALB (CBS RADIO) -- KISSINGER DID NOT GET HIS DEAL, NOT YET. HE TOLD THE SYRIANS HE WOULD RETURN TO DAMASCUS TOMORROW, BUT HIS MOOD TONIGHT IS NO LONGER UPBEAT. HE SAYS THERE CONTINUES TO BE PROGRESS BUT ON THE KEY ISSUE HE CANNOT BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, EXACTLY WHERE TO DRAW THE DISENGAGEMENT LINE. CRUCIAL AT THIS POINT IS WHICH SIDE CONTROLS THE TOPS OF THE THREE MOUNTAINS FLANKING KUNEITRA, THE FORMER SYRIAN DISTRICT CAPITAL ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. THE ISRAELIS NOW CONTROL THESE MOUNTAIN PEAKS, THEY DO NOT WANT TO GIVE THEM UP. THE SYRIANS WANT THEM BACK OR AT A MINIMUM THEY FEEL THE UN SHOULD CONTROL THEM. THE ISRAELIS SAY NO, THAT WOULD JEOPARDIZE THEIR SETTLEMENTS NESTLED IN THE VALLEYS BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS. ON THIS ISSUE THE NEGOTIATION THAT THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN CONDUCTING MAY DEADLOCK AND KISSINGER MAY HAVE TO GO HOME AND GIVE BOTH SIDES TIME TO RE-THINK THEIR CURRENT POSITIONS. THEN HE WOULD RETURN TO THE ME IN A FEW WEEKS. HE WILL KNOW TOMORROW WHETHER HE WILL GET A DEAL OR A DEADLOCK.

(SAME ACCOUNT CARRIED ON CRONKITE TV PROGRAM IN ADDITION TO KALB REPORTING FROM SYRIAN SIDE OF GOLAN FRONT AND FILM CLIP OF SECRETARY SAYING, "NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED. I AM RETURNING TO ISRAEL NOW TO BRING TO THE GOVERNMENT THERE SOME FURTHER SYRIAN THOUGHTS, AND I EXPECT TO RETURN TO DAMASCUS TOMORROW.")

(B) VALERIANI (NBC-TV) -- KISSINGER ARRIVED IN DAMASCUS ON SHUTTLE TRIP NUMBER FOUR EXPECTING IT TO BE DECISIVE IN DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT A BREAKTHROUGH WAS POSSIBLE THIS WEEK. HE WAS HOPING TO CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN THE ISRAELI AND SYRIAN VIEWS ON THE BASIC UNRESOLVED ISSUES IN THE NEGOTIATION -- WHERE THE LINE OF SEPARATION SHOULD BE DRAWN.

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BUT DURING ANOTHER LONG SESSION WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD, KISSINGER AND HIS AIDES APPARENTLY HEARD ONLY MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN THE SYRIAN POSITION.

-- THE SECRETARY: (SAME REMARKS AS MADE ON VALERIANI'S  
-- MORNING REPORT AND ON KALB'S EVENING TV REPORT.)

WHILE KISSINGER WAS TALKING TO SYRIAN LEADERS IN DAMASCUS, THE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS TRAVELLING WITH HIM WERE BROUGHT TO THE FRONT TO SEE WHAT THE TALKING WAS ALL ABOUT. WE HAD REQUESTED THE VISIT AND AFTER GETTING AN AUTHORIZATION FROM ASSAD HIMSELF WE WERE BROUGHT TO THIS FORWARD OBSERVATION POST IN THE SHADOW OF MT. HERMON LESS THAN TWO MILES FROM THE ISRAELI POSITIONS. WE WATCHED A PERFUNCTORY ARTILLERY DUEL AT LONG RANGE. THE SHELLING HAS BEEN GOING

ON FOR MORE THAN TWO WEEKS NOW, AND IT IS MEANT TO KEEP  
PRESSURE ON ISRAEL DURING THE NEGOTIATION -- A REMINDER OF  
WHAT THE SITUATION WILL BE LIKE INDEFINITELY IF THERE IS  
NO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. THEN AS KISSINGER WENT TO AN-  
OTHER MEETING WITH ISRAELI LEADERS, A GROUP OF SETTLERS  
FROM THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AGAIN HECKLED HIM AND CALLED HIM  
"JEW BOY" AS THEY PROTESTED AGAINST ANY ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS  
IRONICALLY, KISSINGER, WHO IS JEWISH, HAS NOT (INAUDIBLE).

(C) SMITH/REASONER (ABC) HAD FILM REPORT BARRY DUNSMORE  
FROM DAMASCUS.

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## Message Attributes

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